

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1     1.     A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:  
  
2             requesting device-related information from a network device over a network;  
3             receiving device-related information from the network device over the network;  
4             generating a device-related report based on said device-related information; and  
5             sending said device-related report to a recipient device.
- 1     2.     The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2             configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based on said device-  
3             related information based at least in part on the recipient device.
- 1     3.     The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2             comprises a faxing module and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step  
3             of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report via fax using the  
4             faxing module.
- 1     4.     The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2             comprises a network connection and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform  
3             the step of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report to an  
4             electronic faxing service over the network connection.
- 1     5.     The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2             comprises an email module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to

3 perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said  
4 device-related report to the recipient device via email using the email module.

1 6. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2 comprises a hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
3 configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by  
4 sending said device-related report to the recipient device via hypertext transfer protocol using  
5 the hypertext transfer protocol module.

1 7. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2 comprises a secure hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction  
3 peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the  
4 recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via secure  
5 hypertext transfer protocol using the secure hypertext transfer protocol module.

1 8. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2 comprises a file transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
3 configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by  
4 sending said device-related report to the recipient device via file transfer protocol using the  
5 file transfer protocol module.

1 9. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2 comprises an encryption module and wherein multifunction peripheral is further configured  
3 to perform the step of encrypting the device-related report.

1 10. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2 comprises an identification module and wherein multifunction peripheral is further  
3 configured to perform the steps of retrieving an identifier for the multifunction peripheral and  
4 augmenting the device-related report with the identifier for the multifunction peripheral.

1 11. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information from a device at  
3 regular intervals.

1 12. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information using the simple  
3 network management protocol.

1 13. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 12, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 configured to perform the step of receiving device-related information from the network  
3 device using the simple network management protocol.

1 14. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the device-related information  
2 comprises one or more of device information, device status, meter reading information, and  
3 consumables information.

1 15. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input, and wherein the  
3 user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the collection of device-related  
4 information from the network device by the multifunction peripheral.

1 16. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input via a remote  
3 interface, and wherein the user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the  
4 collection of device-related information from the network device by the multifunction  
5 peripheral.

1 17. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 further configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information from a device  
3 at intervals defined by the user configuration input.

1 18. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based in part on the  
3 user configuration input, and wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to  
4 perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device at an interval  
5 defined by the user configuration input.

1 19. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further  
2 comprises a means for executing instructions of a java application and the steps are  
3 performed by instructions of a particular java application.

1 20. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the network device is a second  
2 multifunction peripheral.

1 21. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the recipient device is one of the  
2 group consisting of a fax machine, a computer, and dedicated hardware executing one of the  
3 group consisting of an email client, an http server, and https server, and an ftp server.

1 22. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 configured to perform the step of:

3 requesting a second set of device-related information from a second network device  
4 over a network, wherein the network device is distinct from the second  
5 network device;

6 receiving the second set of device-related information from the second network  
7 device over the network;

8 generating the device-related report based on said device-related information and said  
9 second set of device-related information; and

10 sending said device-related report to the recipient device.

1 23. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 configured to perform the step of:

3 accessing a second set of device-related information from the multifunction  
4 peripheral;

5 generating the device-related report based on said device-related information and said  
6 second set of device-related information; and

7 sending said device-related report to the recipient device.

1 24. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is  
2 configured to receive an acknowledgement over the network from the network device.

- 1    25.    A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:
- 2           requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a network;
- 3           receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the network;
- 4           generating a meter report based on said meter data; and
- 5           sending said meter report to a recipient device.
- 1    26.    A multifunction peripheral comprising:
- 2           means for requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a
- 3           network;
- 4           means for receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the
- 5           network;
- 6           means for generating a meter report based on said meter data; and
- 7           means for sending said meter report to a recipient device.
- 1    27.    A multifunction peripheral comprising:
- 2           means for requesting device-related information from a network device over a
- 3           network;
- 4           means for receiving device-related information from the network device over the
- 5           network;
- 6           means for generating a device-related report based on said device-related information;
- 7           and
- 8           means for sending said device-related report to a recipient device.